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**Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America**

*June 15 – 16, 2017 – Miami, Florida*

**Media Advisory #1**

**Media Credential Application Deadline:** Thursday, June 8 at 5:00 PM EDT

***Background:***

The U.S. Department of State, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Government of Mexico will host the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America on June 15-16 in Miami, Florida. The conference will bring together government and business leaders from the United States, Central America, Mexico, and other countries to address the security, governance, and economic challenges in the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. The first day of the conference will feature sessions focused on promoting prosperity and economic growth in the region, while the second day will focus on regional security issues.

Logistical information below applies to Day One, focusing on prosperity and economic growth, only. Information regarding Day Two will be released separately by the Department of Homeland Security.

**Summary and Security**

This two-day event will be held in Miami, Florida. Day One will be hosted at the Florida International University (FIU) Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

**To access any open conference event, all media will require a conference-issued credential regardless of existing federal or official identification.** *Due to capacity limitations, most coverage opportunities at the conference will be pooled and will require an overlay for access. Approval of media accreditation will permit access to the Press Filing Center, but does **not** guarantee access to specific conference events.*

Additional details regarding security, credential pick-up, arrival logistics, and pre-set arrangements will be electronically released to accredited media. Due to security protocols for the conference, portions of the FIU campus may be temporarily or intermittently inaccessible, and all individuals should expect to proceed through “airport-style” security screening.

**Accreditation and Access**

All media representatives wishing to cover the Conference must **apply for a media credential by no later than Thursday, June 8 at 5:00 PM Eastern Time (ET)**. The Accreditation Application Form can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

The United States will issue approvals in the order applications are received. No late or last-minute requests may be accommodated.

**Schedule and Coverage Opportunities**

The conference program is not yet finalized, and a definitive program will be delivered to media representatives upon accreditation.

On Day One, the United States anticipates limited-press Conference events – to include remarks at a plenary session, and lunch – occurring between 9:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

### **Press Filing Center (PFC)**

On June 15, the United States will provide a Press Filing Center (PFC) with unassigned workspaces adjacent to the meeting space. Unassigned work stations are available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis, and will include complimentary wireless internet access and power outlets (North American 110V). Members of the media should expect the Press Filing Center to open at 8:00 AM ET, and will close at approximately 6:00 PM EDT.

For this event, the United States *does not* expect or anticipate significant side-briefings or interview opportunities, and has provided the press filing space only as a courtesy for interested journalists.

Conference-issued media credentials are required at all times for entry and access.

*Food Retail:* Food, soft drinks and coffee are available for purchase on June 15.

*Ratecard:* Additional services – including telephone or hardline Internet lines, power, etc. – may be available at request for this event. If necessary or interested, please inquire to [summitmedia@state.gov](mailto:summitmedia@state.gov) by no later than June 8, 2017.

*Live Transmission:* Members of the media interested in live/broadcast locations or satellite truck parking on Day One, June 15, may inquire about availability by submitting an email to [SummitMedia@state.gov](mailto:SummitMedia@state.gov) (subject line “Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America – Live Truck Inquiry”) by close of business on Wednesday, June 7. All inquiries will be responded to on a first-come, first-served basis. Media organizations should indicate the type of transmission vehicle (including model, registration number, applicable dimensions [height, width, length] and weight, and ensure that all drivers, engineers and crewmembers must be accredited for the Conference. Additional security, logistical and technological parameters – including cabling and electricity specifics – will be made available upon approval.

### **Official Video and Images**

The United States is pleased to provide complimentary video (“HostTV”) and imagery of the designated press sessions.

All designated press program sessions will be streamed live on [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov), and broadcast-quality clean feeds (no graphics/chyrons) in HD/SDI 1080i standard will be available live through the Verizon Washington D.C. AVOC Switch (AVOC source number: 5:0356/Source ID: HD 552810). Non-Conference State Department programming, such as the press briefing, will be available on the HD daily circuit (AVOC source number 5:0366 HD 552830). Direct signal distribution/hookup at the venue will not be available for this event.

After the conclusion of each program session, broadcast-quality video clips of Ministerial programming will be posted to through the Defense Video and Imagery Distribution System (DVIDS):

[www.dvidshub.net/unit/USDOS](http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/USDOS). Please note that interpreted language will not be embedded within live programming, and will be processed and posted after the event as resources permit.

Still imagery, available free-of-charge and in the public domain, will be posted throughout the day on <https://www.flickr.com/photos/statephotos>

### **LODGING**

The United States will not provide lodging or accommodations for press attending the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America.

### **CLIMATE AND TIME ZONE**

Miami is located in Eastern Time Zone, daylight savings (EDT).

During the Conference, Miami will have a warm, humid climate; the average daytime temperature is expected to be around 86 °F, Fahrenheit (30 °C, Celsius), evening temperatures are expected to be around 81 °F (27 °C). Moderate inclement weather is expected for this time of year.

Sunrise is typically around 6:35 am, and sunset is typically around 8:00 pm.

The currency is the United States Dollar (USD), and most local establishments accept a variety of electronic credit/debit cards. Foreign currency exchange brokers are limited throughout the region. An ATM is not located within the PFC. Standard electricity service in the United States is 110/120 volts (60 cycles/Hz). Power sockets are Type A/B. Electrical converters are *not* available in the PFC.

The country code for the United States is +1, and the local area code in Miami is (305) and (786).

Federal, state, and local laws prohibit smoking in most public places including restaurants, bars, theaters, concert halls, educational facilities and airports. Additionally, U.S. hotels typically charge substantial cleaning fees for smoking in any guest room that the hotel has designated as ‘non-smoking.’

### **VISAS AND CUSTOMS**

It is strongly recommended that journalists planning to travel to the United States start the visa application process as soon as possible, regardless of the Conference accreditation process. Visa approval does not guarantee accreditation, nor vice-versa.

#### **Media traveling on “I” visas, who are NOT traveling on the same plane as the Head of Delegation/Head of State:**

All media covering the conference who are not U.S. citizens, or who do not currently hold a work permit, are required to have an “I” visa. Representatives of the foreign media traveling on assignment to the United States, even for one day, are not eligible to travel visa free under the Visa Waiver Program or enter the United States on B-1 (Business) or B-2 (Tourism) visas. Additionally, the Visa Waiver Program is not applicable to persons traveling on diplomatic passports. Visit <http://travel.state.gov> for more information.

**Media Equipment:** Media bringing in equipment (from outside the U.S.) to the conference should obtain a Temporary Importation Bond (TIB) or ATA Carnet.

A TIB allows members of the media to transport equipment (tools of the trade) without incurring duty. For those unfamiliar with the process, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recommends hiring a broker to facilitate the process. A list of brokers may be found on the DHS website. Additional information may be found at: [http://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/590/kw/tib/sno/1](http://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/detail/a_id/590/kw/tib/sno/1)

An ATA Carnet is an international customs document that allows for the temporary importation of professional equipment, and is accepted for goods traveling between the U.S. and other designated countries. The International Chamber of Commerce maintains a list of Carnet-issuing organizations in each participating country. For a list of participating countries and more information on how to obtain an ATA Carnet, please visit: <http://www.iccwbo.org/ata/id2965/index.html>

Additional information regarding ATA carnets may be found at:  
<https://help.cbp.gov/app/answers/list/kw/Carnet/sno/1/search/1/session/L3NpZC81UURXKnpFaw%3D#3D>

#### **Media traveling on “I” visas on the same plane as the Head of Delegation/Head of State and who will be a part of the official delegation’s consolidated motorcade.**

Media must request a Department of Homeland Security US-VISIT exemption to prevent delay in logistics, keep the official delegation safe and to avoid the TIB/Carnet requirement. Please contact your Embassy in

Washington, D.C., which will make a formal request to the U.S. Department of State. The exemption is specific to the individual visa holder and is only valid for (1) entry to the U.S. on a specified date. A Diplomatic Note from the corresponding foreign Embassy requesting for US –VISIT Exemption should be sent to [portcourtesies@state.gov](mailto:portcourtesies@state.gov) with biographical data of the individual needing the US-VISIT exemption as well as a flight itinerary and substantial justification. US-VISIT exemptions are not automatic.

**Media who are Official Photographers/Videographers or Press Officers traveling on “A” or “G” visas on the same plane as, or traveling independently from the Head of Delegation/Head of State:**

Government official photographers/videographers or press officers who travel on “A” or “G” visas require a Diplomatic Note to allow equipment to enter the U.S. without being assessed duties.

**Additional Questions, Technical Inquires and Contact Information**

For media interview requests relating to Day One of the Conference, please email [mediarequests@state.gov](mailto:mediarequests@state.gov); for logistical inquires, email [summitmedia@state.gov](mailto:summitmedia@state.gov).

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